

Message Text

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71

ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 STR-08 AGR-20

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FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8695

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, SZ

SUBJECT: EXPORT CONTROLS AND EXPORT TAXES IMPOSED BY SWISS
GOVERNMENT

REF: STATE 022871

1. FOLLOWING ANSWERS KEYED TO QUESTIONS RAISED REFTEL.

A. NO RPT NO EXPORT CONTROLS OR TAXES HAVE BEEN
IMPOSED OR TIGHTENED BY SWITZERLAND SINCE JANUARY 1973. ONLY DE FACTO
CONTROL DURING THIS PERIOD IS GOS NOVEMBER 1973 ORDER TO SWISS
IMPORTERS AND WHOLESALERS TO LIMIT DELIVERIES TO CUSTOMERS
OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS TO 75-80 PERCENT OF NORMAL LEVEL. WHILE
THIS ACTION TAKEN AS INTERNAL OIL CONSERVATION MEASURE, IT HAS
INCIDENTAL EFFECT ON REDUCING SWITZERLAND'S MINOR EXPORTS OF
PETROLEUM PRODUCTS (MAINLY TO WESTERN AUSTRIA).

B. AS SWITZERLAND IS NOT TRADITIONAL EXPORTER OF BASIC RAW
MATERIALS, THERE ARE RELATIVELY FEW PRESSURES ON GOS TO IMPOSE
NEW EXPORT CONTROLS. SEVERAL YEARS AGO, USE OF EXPORT TAXES AS
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ANTI-INFLATION MEASURE WAS CONSIDERED BUT REJECTED. WITH EXPECTED

DECLINE IN WORLD DEMAND THIS SUBJECT NOT LIKELY TO BE RAISED IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE. SHOULD PETROLEUM SUPPLY SITUATION WORSEN, MORE FORMAL CONTROLS ON EXPORT OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS POSSIBLE. SWITZERLAND, HOWEVER, IS HIGH-COST, LOW-CAPACITY PRODUCER OF REFINED PRODUCTS WITH VERY LITTLE POTENTIAL FOR INCREASED EXPORTS. NEW EXPORT CONTROLS ON SOME AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND FERTILIZERS CONCEIVABLE BUT NOT RPT NOT LIKELY.

C. ACCORDING TO SWISS DIVISION COMMERCE OFFICIALS, SWITZERLAND HAS NO OFFICIAL BARTER AGREEMENTS AND NONE ARE CONTEMPLATED. THERE ARE SOME PRIVATE BARTER ARRANGEMENTS OF MINOR SIGNIFICANCE (E.G., SWISS CHEESE FOR FRENCH WINE). WHILE THE GOAS HAS NO RPT NO PLANS TO BARTER FOR OIL, SWISS OFFICIALS CONCEDE THAT PRIVATE FIRMS MAY INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH ARRANGEMENTS. SWISS UNTIL NOW VERY MUCH PREFER MULTILATERAL APPROACH BUT RECENTLY HAD VERY VAGUE, HYPOTHETICAL, GENERAL DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENT WITH IRAN (SEPTEL).

2. COMPLETE LIST OF EXISTING EXPORT CONTROLS AND TAXES FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM.

3. ONLY SIGNIFICANT IMPORT RESTRICTION IMPOSED SINCE JANUARY 1973 WAS FEDERAL DECREE OF JULY 6, 1973, WHICH PLACED IMPORT SURCHARGE ON CERTAIN SOFT CHEESES AND TIGHTENED INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS ON IMPORTED FOODSTUFFS. THERE HAVE BEEN NO RPT NO NEW IMPORT RESTRICTIONS RELATED TO CURRENT SUPPLY PROBLEMS.
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